except Bengal and the Punjab, where communal problems were acute, it gained large majorities. The Liberals were swamped and the old non-Brahmin Justice Party of Madras virtually disappeared. The Socialists and Nehru himself were strongly opposed to the Congress taking office after its victory, believing that it would weaken the opposition to imperialism and lead to an increasing dependence upon constitutional parliamentary action. But Gandhi is said to have believed that it was the only alternative to bloody revolution. Despite Nehru's antagonism, he won the day.

This marks the Mahatma's return to public life. His influence has never been greater than it is to-day. Though he is not even a "4-anna member" of the Congress, he is virtually Dictator. He is the "High Command" and nothing is done without his advice being sought.

Congress ministries were formed in seven provinces and, later, in the North-West Frontier Province, with Abdul GhafFar Khan's brother as Prime Minister. Now it is likely that a coalition ministry may be formed in Assam and possibly hi Bengal, while in Sind the Ministry to-day is closely allied to the Congress. Outstanding Congressmen of the second line accepted portfolios and, behind them, co-ordinating and guiding, was the Working Committee with its Parliamentary Sub-Committee. But the power behind the throne is that of the Mahatma in his remote village. Here he lives with his disciples; it is at once a place of pilgrimage and a council house. I remember staying there during the Rains, when the roads were impassable even for bullock carts. Notwithstanding, there was a steady stream of visitors. Despife age and ill-health, Gandhi has never been more influential. He has recently been called in to deal with the question of political prisoners in Bengal* When the Ministers of Bihar and U.P. resigned because iliey were not given freedom to release the prisoners in